

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 13-32 are currently pending. Claims 1, 7, 21, and 27 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 7, 21, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,793,344 to Koyama (hereinafter "the '344 patent"); Claims 2-4, 8-10, 22-24, 28, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '344 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,260,797 to Muraji et al. (hereinafter "the '797 patent"); Claims 25, 26, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '344 patent in view of Japanese Patent No. JP11-113019 to Hideo (hereinafter "the '019 patent"); and Claims 13-20 were allowed.¹

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an image display apparatus, comprising: (1) an image processor for outputting image data including plural color component data, the plural color component data including red, blue, and green color component data; (2) a gain corrector for correcting chromaticity levels of the image data output by the image processor; and (3) an image display device having pixels each emitting a plurality of colored light rays for forming a color image in accordance with the corrected image data corrected by the gain corrector. Further, Claim 1 recites that the gain corrector corrects a respective level of the red and blue color component data applied to each respective pixel in the image display device based on measured luminance levels at each respective pixel such that, when image data representing an image of a uniform color are output from the image processor, a difference in chromaticity of light exiting from the pixels due to characteristic differences between the pixels of the

¹ Applicants note that dependent Claim 30 was not specifically rejected in the outstanding Office Action. Moreover, Claim 30 was not indicated as allowable.

image device is reduced without making uniform a luminance of the light exiting from the pixels of the image display device. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the gain corrector is configured to use the measured level of green at each pixel as a reference level to reduce the difference in the chromaticity at each pixel. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.²

The '344 patent is directed to a system for correcting a display device. In particular, the '344 patent discloses that a difference between a desired standard level and a level of signal input to the signal processor 104 is obtained and then used as a correction value.³ As shown in Figures 8 and 9, the '344 patent discloses a system in which a difference between a desired brightness level of 50 and the brightness level at each pixel can be calculated. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '344 patent fails to disclose a gain corrector that corrects a respective level of red and blue color component data applied to each respective pixel in an image display device based on measured luminance levels at each respective pixel such that, when image data representing an image of a uniform color are output from the image processor, a difference in chromaticity of light exiting from the pixels due to characteristic differences between the pixels of the image display device is reduced without making uniform a luminance of the light exiting from the pixels of the image display device, wherein the gain corrector is configured to use the measured luminance level of green at each pixel as a reference level to reduce the difference in the chromaticity at each pixel, as recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by the '344 patent is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

Independent Claims 7, 21, and 27 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in amended Claim 1. Moreover, Claims 7, 21, and 27 have been amended in a

² See, e.g., page 9, line 12 through page 11, line 2, and Figure 3(b).

³ '344 patent, column 4, lines 48-51.

manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 7, 21, and 27 are rendered moot by the present amendment to those claims.

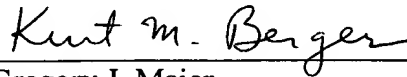
Regarding the rejection of dependent Claims 2-4, 8-10, 22-26, 28, 29, 31, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully submit that the '797 and '019 patents fail to remedy the deficiencies of the '344 patent, as discussed above. In particular, the '797 patent fails to disclose a gain corrector that corrects levels of color component data based on measured luminance levels at each pixel, as recited, e.g., in Claim 1. Rather, the '797 patent discloses that red and blue signals are adjusted such that the luminance of the corresponding red and blue image components conform to a predetermined green image component profile, which is determined across the horizontal portion of the image display device at the vertical centerline. See Amendment filed October 23, 2003, pages 12-13. Moreover, the '797 patent makes the luminance of the light exiting from the pixels conform to a desired smooth luminance profile throughout the display device, contrary to the requirements of independent Claims 21 and 27. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of dependent Claims 2-4, 8-10, 22-26, 28, 29, 31, and 32 are rendered moot by the present amendment to the independent claims.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 7, 21, and 27 patentably define over any proper combination of the '344, '797, and '019 patents.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as admitted herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

GJM:KMB:fbf

I:\ATTY\KMB\192's\192909US\192909.AM4.DOC